

GRIEVING SPOUSE OR BLACK WIDOW? POLICE SAY PAMELA SMART HAD HER 16-YEAR-OLD LOVER MURDER HER HUSBAND

CRIME



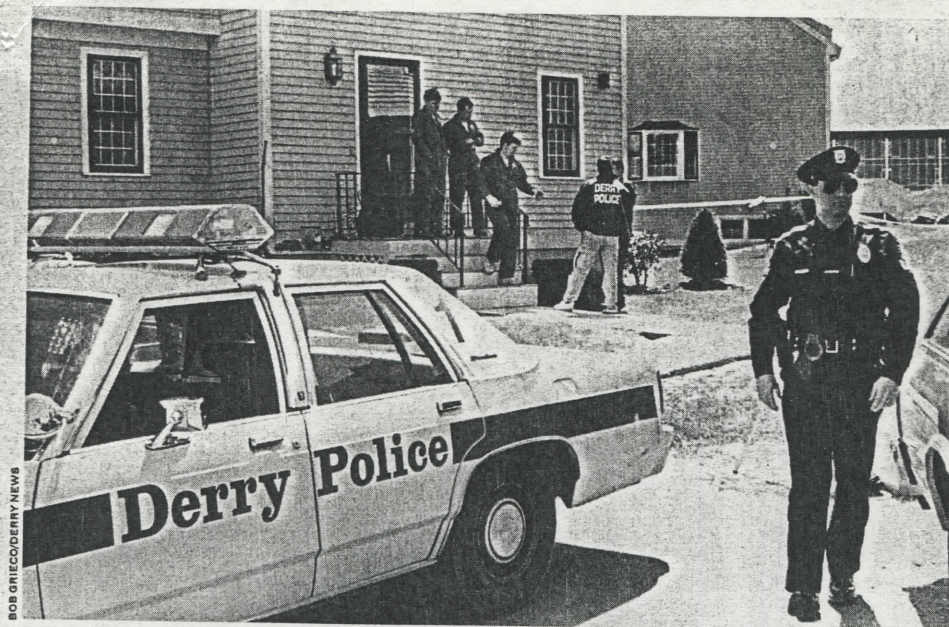
Radiant at her May '89 wedding to Gregg Smart, Pam appeared subdued in Derry, N.H., after her arrest last August. She demanded to be seen as "the victim I am."

When Pamela Wojas and Gregg Smart met at a party during the college Christmas break five years ago, they seemed an ideal match. The two teenagers both loved good times and rock and roll, and Pam thought that Gregg, with his shoulder-length hair, looked like Jon Bon Jovi. Three and a half years later—after Gregg had cut his hair and gone to work for the Nashua, N.H., life insurance firm that employed his father and Pam had taken a job as media-services director for a nearby school district—the two married. Last spring Gregg planned to celebrate their first year of marriage, then take Pam away on a Florida vacation, a reward for his banner rookie year as a salesman. Gregg's buddy, Steve Payment, remembers receiving a call from him last May 1, six days before the anniversary. "Gregg was really excited," says Payment. "He was planning a big party."

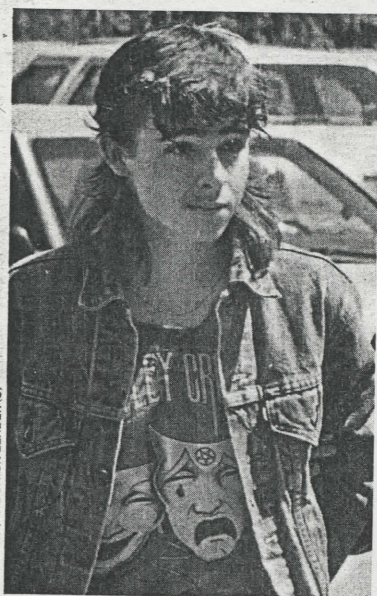
Gregg, 24, never had that party. On the evening of May 1, after returning from work to the couple's Derry, N.H., town house, he was killed by a single shot to the head with a .38 revolver. When Pam, who had been at a school board meeting, arrived about an hour and a half later and saw Gregg's body in the foyer, she ran from unit to unit in the complex, frightening neighbors with her screams. Three



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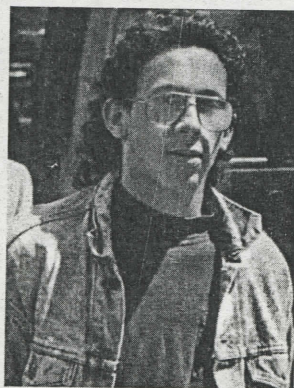
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CRIME

▲ Pam's alleged lover, Bill Flynn, say police, botched an earlier attempt on Gregg's life when he got lost en route to the Smart home.



▲ The scene of the May 1990 crime: Reportedly Gregg pleaded with his assailants not to hurt Pam's Shih Tzu dog, Halen, which is now with Pam's parents.



◀ Like the other two teenage suspects, Patrick Randall was from Seabrook, whose working-class residents are looked down on by more affluent surrounding communities.

◀ Vance Lattime is said to have provided the murder weapon, a Charter Arms .38 revolver he took from his father's gun collection.

days later she led Gregg's parents, Judy and Bill Smart, in a tender farewell ceremony, leaving roses on her husband's grave.

Gregg's death was tragic; Pam's evident suffering touching. But her tenure as a sympathetic widow proved brief. Next week Pamela Smart, 23, is scheduled to go on trial as an accomplice in the first-degree murder of her husband. The gunman, say police, was 16-year-old William Flynn, Pam's alleged lover.

They also say that from the beginning

there were flaws in Pam's story. The home had been ransacked, and Pam told police that close to \$300 in jewelry and some compact discs were missing. But investigators doubted that burglars would have chosen the Smart home, whose entry was in full view of other town houses in the complex, or that they would have struck at night, when people tend to be home. Besides, robbers in the area rarely pack firearms. Interviewed by reporters again and again, Pam challenged the doubters. "I'm absolutely convinced," she told the *Derry*

News, "that someone was burglarizing our home and Gregg just walked in."

By June the case took a different turn, with the trail leading some 30 miles eastward to Winnacunnet High School in Hampton, just a parking lot away from Pam's media-services office. An 18-year-old Seabrook youth overheard some of his teenage friends saying that they had murdered Gregg Smart. Flynn, Patrick Randall, 17, and Vance Lattime, 18, had allegedly driven out to the Smarts' home that night. Flynn is accused of shooting Smart while one of the other youths held the victim. The third drove the getaway car.

On June 10 Vance Lattime's father, having learned from a friend of the boys that a gun from his collection had been used in the murder, turned the weapon over to the police. The following day ballistics experts matched the bullet that killed Smart with the elder Lattime's revolver, and the three boys were arrested. (Flynn's trial for first-degree murder is yet to be scheduled. Charges against the other two youths are still being decided.) Before long police were connecting Flynn with the dead man's wife; the youth had taken part in a video Pam had made for a Florida orange juice-sponsored high school contest, and they had spent time in each other's homes. Flynn's high school friends say that he shared Pam's love of rock and roll. When he wasn't out on dirt bikes with his pals, he often played guitar and listened to his favorite group, Mötley Crüe.

Investigators claim to have more damning evidence: Pam's student aide, Cecelia Pierce, 16, was staying at the Smarts' home the week before the killing while Gregg was attending insurance classes in Rhode Island. Flynn visited at times during the week. A prosecutor said that during one of these visits, Pierce had walked into Pam's bedroom and caught her having sex with Flynn. Pierce said Pam was unhappy in her marriage but did not see divorce as a solution because she feared Gregg would win the right to their property and that he would be unwilling to let her go as she tried to establish a new life. Pierce said she heard Pam and her teenage lover plotting to kill Gregg.

But it wasn't until the boys were arrested that Pierce, who had remained close to Pam, agreed to help set a trap for her. "It was really bothering me that Pam had her husband killed," she told a television interviewer. "Her lover was in jail, and she didn't care. And how was I supposed to believe that she was actually my friend? I could hang myself knowing what I know,



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After initial reluctance to inform on her friend, Cecelia Pierce (right, with Pam) provided the evidence that led to Smart's arrest.

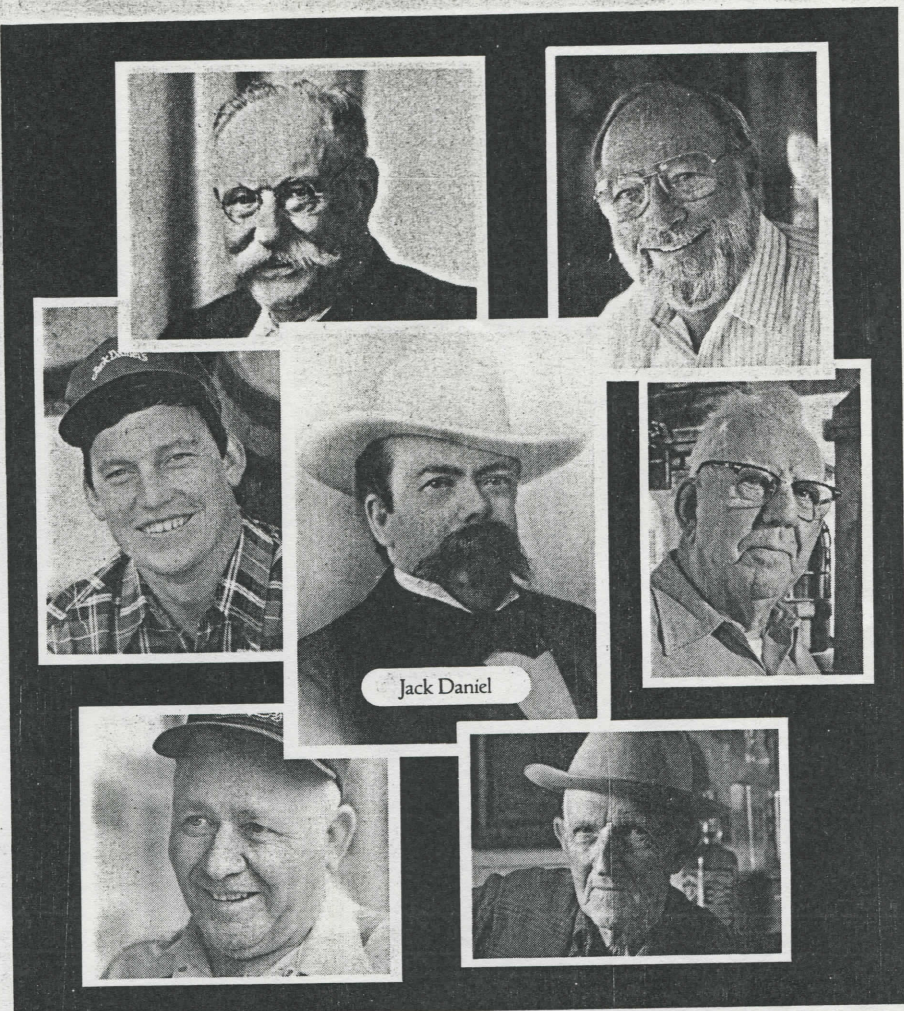
CRIME

and she'd be relieved because that's one less person who could tell." (In fact Smart has since been indicted by a grand jury for attempting, while in jail, to arrange for another inmate to have Pierce killed.)

On July 13 police outfitted Pierce with a hidden microphone to record a conversation with Smart. According to Pierce, the two had agreed that if Pierce were ever wired, she would signal Smart with a wink. "For a few minutes," Pierce said later, "I had to think to myself, 'Should I wink?' But I didn't wink, and she told all." Smart's lawyers, Paul Twomey and Mark Sisti, claim that Pierce is merely trying to protect the boys at Pam's expense.

John and Linda Wojas—who moved from Miami to New Hampshire when Pam was in the eighth grade to protect her and her two siblings from the violence of big-city living—have been stunned by the charges against their daughter. "We try to think back through all her childhood years, if we could ever see a mean streak in her," says Pam's father, a retired airline pilot. "She was the most lovable, friendly kid."

Many who knew Pam then agree. At Derry's Pinkerton Academy, she was a cheerleader, honor student, class officer; she dated the captain of the football team. If she had any faults, they were that she needed to be the center of attention and that she was, perhaps, too determined to lead a glamorous life. Remembers Gregg's mother, Judy Smart: "She used to say to me, 'I'm going to be another Barbara Walters. I don't know how I'm going to do it,



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